

Religiosity Scales Project

Welcome to the Religiosity Scales Project, a web-based research project coordinated by Marsha Cutting, Associate Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, Waterloo, ON. We are grateful for your interest. As you may know, religiosity has been the subject of an increasing amount of research in recent years, particularly as it relates to health. We are concerned, however, that the research instruments currently in use may be missing important dimensions of North American Christianity. In addition, there is some confusion about how many of the current instruments may apply to Christians of diverse ethnicity and age because the instruments have been tested on somewhat limited groups of participants. We are working to develop a new research instrument, the Inclusive Christian Scale, to correct these problems.

If you are willing to assist us in our research, we will first ask you for some demographic information, such as age, gender and ethnicity. We will not collect specific identifying information, so there will be no way to connect any individual with his or her responses. We will collect IP addresses, for the purpose of eliminating accidental duplicate replies, but we will erase these once data collection is complete. The only people who will have access to the information you provide are myself, Frederick Volk, an associate professor of psychology at Liberty University, Robert Gebotys, an associate professor of psychology at Wilfrid Laurier University, and the webmaster, Cristian Onofrei, a graduate student in Counseling Psychology and Religion at Boston University.

Then we will ask you to complete the Inclusive Christian Scale. When you finish, you will be given your results on six subscales and asked how well you feel these results reflect your understanding of your faith. We estimate that completing this should take a half hour or less. Then, if you are willing, we'd like you to complete a religiosity scale currently in common use, get your results on that, and tell us which one you feel better reflects your understanding of your faith. We estimate that this extra step should take less than a half hour. You will have an opportunity to make comments at the point that you are asked how well the results reflect your understanding of your faith, and it is possible that we might use one or more of these comments, anonymously. You will have the opportunity to indicate if you would prefer that we not do so, in which case we will not use your comments. We know that you are busy, and we appreciate your willingness to consider participating.

Your participation in this study is voluntary, you may withdraw at any time without consequences to you, and you may omit any questions that you wish, though it is possible that we will not be able to use incomplete responses in the analysis. I estimate that approximately 3,000 people will be asked to take part in this study. I hope to present the results at professional conferences and academic journals.

If you have any questions regarding the research or your participation in it, either now or any time in the future, please feel free to contact the Principal Investigator, the Rev. Marsha Cutting, Ph.D., at 519-884-1970, ext 3576 or at mcutting@gmail.com. You may also email the Principal Investigator if you wish to receive feedback on the results of the project. We anticipate that preliminary results will be available by the fall of 2009.

This project has been reviewed and approved by the University Research Ethics Board. If you feel you have not been treated according to the descriptions in this form, or your rights as a participant in research have been violated during the course of this project, you may contact Dr. Bill Marr, Chair, University Research Ethics Board, Wilfrid Laurier University, (519) 884-0710, extension 2468.